

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The examiner has allowed claims 9 through 13. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to more accurately define the invention claimed.

Korteweg (United States Patent No. 4,952,204) discloses a cotton swab affixed within a sleeve with a narrow handle portion that closely conforms to the swab stick and a substantially larger diameter receptacle portion that encloses the cotton ball at the end of the swab stick. At the tip of the narrow handle portion is a section with an even smaller diameter than the remainder of the narrow handle portion to enable the frictional engagement of the tip of the swab stick to the sleeve.

Applicant's invention is an enclosed applicator comprising an applicator with an applicator tip sealed along with a fluid within an elongated housing. The elongated housing is generally of a constant diameter. The portion of the elongated housing near the applicator tip is either the same diameter as the remainder of the elongated housing, as shown in figure 2, or smaller, as shown in figures 1A, 1B, and 1C. An opening means is provided near the applicator tip. The applicator and the elongated housing are formed as a single unit. When the elongated housing is opened through the opening means, the applicator tip is exposed and the fluid in the elongated housing may be applied by the applicator tip to desired locations.

In an alternate embodiment, the enclosed applicator comprises an applicator with an applicator tip affixed to one end of an elongated member sealed along with a fluid within a generally constant diameter elongated housing with an opening means closer to the applicator tip than to a second end of the elongated member. When the elongated housing is opened through

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the opening means, the applicator tip is exposed and the fluid in the elongated housing may be applied by the applicator tip to desired locations.

Applicant hereby submits that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) have all been overcome. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


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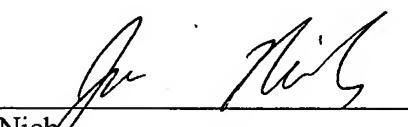
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